



# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Oconto County



### **County characteristics**

- 998 sq. mi.
- Lands: Southern county is farmland and woodland, northern county is forested, southeast increasing residential development
- Waters: 159 lakes, 98 miles of trout stream, Green Bay shoreline and tributary streams to the bay.
- Trends: Some portions of the county are experiencing heavy development. There is increasing residential development in the southeastern part of the county.
- Oconto County is an important recreational area for Fox Valley residents



### **State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing**

- 6,250 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas
- Copper Culture State Park

Locate DNR properties at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### **Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you**

- 1 Wildlife Biologist, 1 Wildlife Technician (Vacant)
- 1 Fisheries Biologist and 1 Fisheries Technician
- 3 Conservation Wardens (1 vacancy);
- Peshtigo office: 101 N. Ogden Street, 54157
- Staff also serve portions of Marinette and Brown counties.

### **Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars**

- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, and other wildlife species.
- Work with the Oconto County Forestry staff to manage and utilize the 43,000-acre Oconto County Forest. Most of this area is open to public hunting.
- Establish and maintain forest habitat for deer, turkeys, and other wildlife species
- Restore oak/pine forest on reclaimed agricultural fields on Fishery and Wildlife lands
- Protect spawning Green Bay fish in tributary streams.
- Multiple criminal deer and bear cases investigated and resolved
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.

*Activities continued...*

- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites.
- Maintaining 10 miles of access roads and over 20 parking sites.
- Monitor local wildlife populations using surveys on ducks, bears, grouse, woodcock, deer, mourning doves, fishers, coyotes, bobcats, wolves.
- Age deer throughout the County. In recent years, at Abrams, Breed, Oconto Falls, and Townsend.
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts, work to keep habitats intact and functioning for fish and wildlife.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.

### **Oconto County Conservation Snapshots**

- 55** Lakes with boat launches  
Several Boat launch sites on Green Bay  
Learn-to-Hunt Pheasant Program
- 25** ALIS Agents supported
- 10** Deer, Turkey & Bear Registration  
Stations



### **Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary**

- 63,000 fish stocked in 8 inland lakes
- 11,500 fish stocked in 2 Streams
- 164,000 fish stocked in Green Bay Waters and its Tributaries
- 4,000 birds distributed by 6 Day-old chick clubs

### **County Success Stories**

- Active acquisition and management of the Green Bay Shoreline has helped preserve the incredible wildlife and fisheries potential of this part of the county.
- Wild trout management on the South Branch Oconto River in partnership with sports clubs has helped enhance that fishery

### **Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities**

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

**Want to Learn More?** Go to [dnr.wi.gov/invest](http://dnr.wi.gov/invest)

March 2005